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Commission for Social Development
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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Sewa Lamsal Adhikari (Nepal), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2012/7, in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development would be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all",

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

Please recycle

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit[4] and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] and the outcome of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[6]

Expressing concern about the crippling effects of poverty, inequality and disparity all over the globe,

Recognizing that the empowerment of people is essential to achieving development,

Recognizing also that policies aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as social integration, and policies intended to foster the empowerment of people, are mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing further that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of social and economic development, and that people should be the key focus of plans, programmes and policies at all levels so that the results of development fairly benefit all people,

Reaffirming that empowerment and participation are important for social development and that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of all, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, with due regard to the need for the full and equal participation of women,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond",[7] in which Governments reaffirmed their resolve to work together through a participatory approach involving the public sector and representatives of civil society, associations and organizations of persons with disabilities for disability-inclusive development and the commitment of the international community to the advancement of the rights of all persons with disabilities, which is deeply rooted in the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] as well as to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond,

Reaffirming that the empowerment of all people, in particular women and girls as well as youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, to strengthen their own

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[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[4] General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[5] General Assembly resolution 65/1.
[6] General Assembly resolution 68/6.
[7] General Assembly resolution 68/3.
[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

capacity to make informed decisions in exercising the right and responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live is a main objective of development and its principal resource, and in this regard that empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of decisions, as appropriate, determining the functioning and well-being of our societies,

Recalling the outcome document of the Third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and reaffirming our understanding that the realization of children's rights is among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty, our vow to break the cycle of poverty within the framework of the internationally agreed goals, and our commitment to invest in children in their best interests, particularly in improvements in access to quality education and health care for all children, as well as to the progressive universalization of social protection,

Recalling also the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[9] in which Governments reaffirmed the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote the empowerment of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, including by removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors,

Recognizing that providing universal access to social services, including quality education, adequate and affordable water and sanitation and health care and other social care services, promoting employment and decent work for all and providing social protection floors consistent with national priorities and circumstances are important instruments for empowering people, and recognizing also the need to mobilize political commitment to full and equal access to and achievement in education of good quality for all, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and people living in rural areas,

Stressing the importance of increasing efforts by the international community, Member States and all relevant groups of society, including social partners, to reduce inequalities and eliminate social exclusion and discrimination,

Acknowledging that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development and their effective use are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Stressing the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and recalling the decision of the General Assembly to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the

[9] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

consideration of an appropriate celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit, in 2015, in the context of coordinated and integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Acknowledging the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Reaffirms* that the ultimate goal of social development is to improve and enhance the quality of life of all people and that empowerment and participation are essential for democracy, harmony and social development;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made by Member States in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[11] to ensure substantial public investment and promote private investment in human resource development and in capacity-building, including in health and education and social protection, as well as in empowerment and participation, especially for people living in poverty or suffering from social exclusion;

4. *Stresses* that Member States should prioritize the creation of a "society for all" with respect for the human rights of all individuals and based on equality, mutual responsibility and cooperation, access to essential services, including health care and social care services, and the promotion of the active participation of every member of society, without discrimination, in civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes;

5. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence, and also emphasizes that the education of women and girls is essential for poverty eradication and for their empowerment;

6. *Stresses* that special efforts should be made to foster the participation of all people, including women, people living in poverty and those belonging to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, in all aspects of political, economic, social, civic and cultural life, in particular the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate, of policies that affect them;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable

[10] E/CN.5/2014/3.

[11] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, employment, water and sanitation, health care and social protection;

8. *Encourages* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners, as appropriate, to continue developing, improving and implementing inclusive, effective and sustainable social protection systems and social protection floors based on national priorities for all members of society, including women as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, and in this regard takes note of recommendation No. 202 adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization on 14 June 2012, concerning national floors of social protection;

9. *Also encourages* Governments to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance, in particular, the employability of women and youth as well as older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and members of other disadvantaged groups and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work;

10. *Urges* Member States and, as appropriate, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, as well as all relevant actors, to continue to develop and strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of all members of society and to ensure their access to full and productive employment and decent work, including by improving access to formal and non-formal education, skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining, and long-distance education, including in information and communications technology and entrepreneurial skills, particularly in developing countries, including with a view to supporting the economic empowerment of all members of society in the different stages of their lives;

11. *Recognizes* that the creation of full and productive employment and decent work should be a central objective of national policies and that macroeconomic policy should contribute to creating more and better job opportunities and an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship, which is essential to the creation of new jobs;

12. *Also recognizes* that access to employment and decent work for all and social dialogue are essential for people's empowerment and participation, and calls for Member States to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work, in accordance with the International Labour Organization's Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

13. *Stresses* the relevance of the World Programme of Action for Youth,[12] including its priority areas regarding poverty, employment, participation and education, for the empowerment and development of youth, and in this regard recognizes the need to improve opportunities for young people to gain access to productive employment and decent work through increased investment in youth employment, active labour market support and public-private partnerships, as well as through the creation of enabling environments to facilitate the participation of

[12] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

young people in labour markets, in accordance with international rules and commitments;

14. *Reaffirms* the need to enhance the welfare of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, older persons and smallholder and subsistence farmers and to improve the livelihoods and empowerment of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, in particular in developing countries;

15. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002[13] in order to, inter alia, help societies balance the needs of different generations in their policies, promote economic empowerment and avoid age-based discrimination against older persons;

16. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen access to productive resources for disadvantaged and vulnerable persons, including by securing land tenure rights and other rights related to the use of natural resources in accordance with national legislation, priorities and policies and by improving access to a broad range of appropriate financial services;

17. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and also encourages them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks that facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

18. *Stresses* the potential of information and communications technology to improve the quality of life of all people in order to enable them to better participate in sustainable development and the global economy, and in this regard calls upon Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, donors, the private sector and civil society, to promote universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communications technology, especially in schools and public places, and to remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide;

19. *Invites* Governments to enhance the capacity of the public administration to be transparent, accountable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people, without discrimination of any kind, and to foster broad-based participation in governance and development processes;

20. *Recognizes* that supportive institutional structures and participatory mechanisms, including consultative democratic institutions and processes, are necessary for the empowerment of people and that special efforts should be made to promote participation in policymaking and governance processes in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life, and to enhance the capacity of national institutions to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of all members of society;

21. *Encourages* Member States to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination of any kind against all persons in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, in particular those living in poverty, to refrain from adopting any laws, regulations or practices denying

[13] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

or limiting the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political rights, and to ensure that people, in particular those living in poverty and women, have equal access to justice;

22. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on comprehensive social policy systems, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

23. *Recognizes* that there is a need for all donors to maintain and deliver on their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets, and that the full implementation of those commitments will substantially support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the social development objectives by promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all;

24. *Invites* Member States to give due consideration to promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, and encourages Member States, in cooperation with civil society, the private sector, academia and social organizations, to make every possible effort to support good governance at the national and international levels and address the needs of the most vulnerable as well as promote their participation in decision-making processes;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, policy recommendations on the empowerment of people, taking into account the discussions held at the fifty-second session of the Commission for Social Development under the priority theme.